

The Southern Counties

Higher Dam

Colossal and stupendous is the Boulder Dam project with its 700-foot water barrier, its power, flood control, and irrigation ramifications. To even more gigantic proportions loomed the Boulder Dam last week when Secretary of the Interior Wilbur, returned to Washington after a tour of the Colorado River, set wheels in motion for the addition of twenty-five feet to the height of the huge structure. To Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation and director of Boulder Dam construction, Secretary Wilbur sent word that he desired the engineers of the Bureau of Reclamation to investigate, survey and report upon the practicability of increasing the dam's height.

Benefits of the increase in height: (1) Make possible the addition of 3,750,000 acres to the water storage capacity of the dam, making what already on present plans is the greatest structure of its kind in the world, capable for a long back approximately 30,000,000 acre feet of water; (2) increase the amount of power that could be produced; (3) provide more water for domestic use; (4) increase the flood control facilities of the dam—the more water held back the less water to do damages along the lower Colorado; (5) prolong the life of the dam, since a higher dam obviously would be longer filling up with silt.

At Washington, last week, indication was that engineers of the Reclamation Service had been considering the matter for the last several weeks, had recommended the additional height, but that Secretary Wilbur, who has not studied the matter thoroughly, had not reached a decision. Therefore Secretary Wilbur asked for a survey so that he might have additional aid in studying the matter, in making his decision.

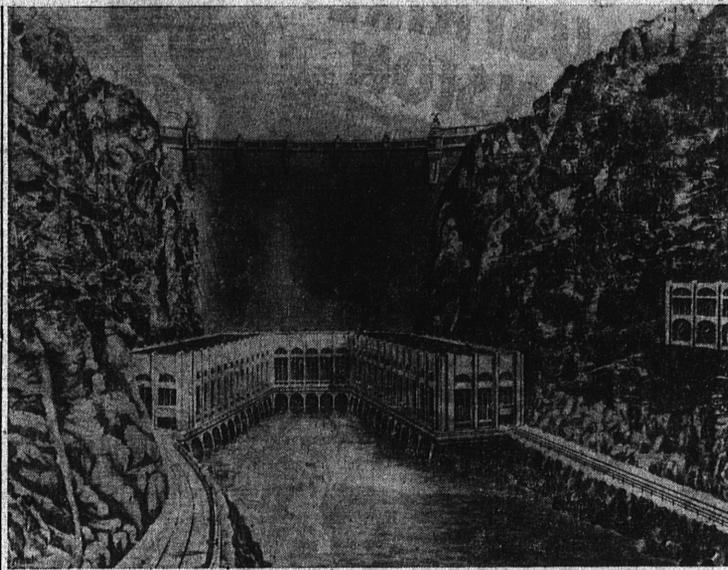
To Capitol newsgatherers Secretary Wilbur said that he had been informed by legal advisers for the Reclamation Service that the change could be made without going back to Congress for authority. Secretary Wilbur also declared that the cost would not be high, "certainly not so much greater as to require a revamping of the financial set-up of the project, which is estimated at \$165,000,000." These and other statements of the Secretary indicated, Capitol observers thought, that he had already decided favorably to the increase in height, that he had ordered the survey only as a matter of procedure to satisfy himself against the attacks of Senators Ashurst and Hayden of Arizona, other opponents of the dam, who might cause trouble in Congress.

Dr. Elwood Mead, Commissioner of Reclamation, obviously favors the greater height. He told newspaper men that he believed the proposal to be "feasible and practical," said that the additional power revenue would amply take care of the increased cost of construction.

Long advocates of a higher dam have been the cities of California of the Metropolitan Water District. It was largely upon their solicitation that Secretary Wilbur ordered the survey made. Chief among the Metropolitan District's reasons for a higher dam: the more water impounded, the more power to be generated, the more power generated the more quickly will dam construction be paid. This is because of the act of Congress creating the dam does not appropriate funds for the work, but provides that contracts for the sale of power must be secured of sufficient proportions to insure payment of construction within 50 years. Southern California cities and public utilities that have already made application for power: Los Angeles, Pasadena, Glendale, Burbank, San Diego, Long Beach and the Southern California Edison Company and Los Angeles Gas & Electric Corporation.

River Suit

Of vital bearing upon the whole Boulder Dam project (see above) was a suit, being heard last week at Los Angeles, between the U. S. Government and the State of Utah. The suit, which involved the control of Colorado River bottom lands, hinges on the question of whether the Colorado and other rivers were navigable at the time



ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF PROPOSED BOULDER DAM

Its power, flood control and irrigation ramifications are colossal.

Utah was admitted to the Union in 1896.

Under the law, if the streams were not navigable at that time, then the Federal government takes full possession of the stream beds, now known to contain vast mineral deposits. If it is proved that the streams were navigable, the State owns the stream beds.

Although neither the question nor the evidence taken last week had any direct bearing upon whether the Lower Colorado River (where the Boulder project is located) is navigable, the case was watched with interest both by California and Arizona. For it has been admitted, although it is not a matter of official record, that the upper (Utah) and lower divisions of the river have many characteristics in common.

If Arizona ever acts to prevent construction of Boulder Dam through the courts—which she has threatened to do—it is generally understood by Southern California advocates of the dam that any suit will be based on the contention that the river is navigable.

Last week's court sessions at Los Angeles were only evidence collected here. When all evidence is collected it will be turned over to the Supreme Court for decision.

To The People

Fortnight ago the newly-created Fourth District Court of Appeals met for the first time at San Bernardino; announced it would make its permanent headquarters at San Diego or San Bernardino, that once its permanent headquarters were chosen it would migrate to the two other seats only at frequent intervals. This procedure, said the three Justices of the court, would save the taxpayers the expense of maintaining a retinue of attaches at the other seats of the court. The seats: Fresno, San Bernardino, San Diego.

But the State law creating the new court provides that it sit for four month periods at Fresno, San Bernardino, San Diego; does not say that the court should have any permanent headquarters. These and other facts were presented to the court at San Bernardino last week by the bar associations of San Bernardino and Fresno counties. They objected strongly to any movement which would install the court in a permanent seat. The three Justices, speaking through Presiding Justice Sloane of San Diego, told protesting bar association representatives that the court had in mind only the thought of saving the taxpayers money, that it would meet the demand of Fresno and San Bernardino counties, that it would "come to the people instead of the people going

to the court" which would have been the case had the court established permanent headquarters.

Said Senator Ralph Swing of San Bernardino, one of the Legislators who introduced the bill creating the court, explained to the court last week that the bill was designed to provide a tribunal for each of the three cities on an equal basis. Heretofore, said Senator Swing, the so-called "cow counties" of the State have been under the domination of the larger centers of population. The Fourth District Court, he said, was created to provide a court for these counties, a court which would sit four months out of the year in each of the three major cities of the district. The establishment of a headquarters where the court would be in session most of the time might be less expensive for the state, but not the litigants who, said Senator Swing, "have heretofore been required to travel to the court."

Said Senator Swing: "If headquarters were to be established in any city, Fresno should be named. The bill creating the court originated here. The representatives of San Diego in the Legislature did nothing in support of the measure."

Interrupting Senator Swing, Presiding Justice Sloane asked what would be San Bernardino's attitude if the court's headquarters were established at Fresno.

"That would be perfectly agreeable to San Bernardino," said Senator Swing.

Thus the new court will proceed with its sittings as originally scheduled, although the migratory plan may be of greater cost to the State.

Double Justice

When Glendale was young and small it needed only one justice of the peace. Few were the offenders of John Law then who defended within the precincts of Glendale. But Glendale has grown to be a city of 85,000 people. Last week Attorney C. E. Hasbrouck, Glendale's Chamber of Commerce secretary explained in a letter to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that the present justice court in Glendale is "overworked." Furthermore, recently enacted statutes which promise increased jurisdiction of justice courts will make the congestion even more marked, the attorney thought.

The "recently enacted statutes" Hasbrouck makes reference to are now before the State Supreme Court which has been asked to decide upon their legality. The statutes increase the jurisdiction of justice courts in municipalities which have a population more than 30,000.

Prior to last month, justices of the peace in Southern California

townships were permitted to hear cases involving suits not over \$300. Last month a law became effective whereby the maximum sum was raised to \$1000 in communities of more than 30,000 population. (See News Review, Aug. 19-25).

This week hearings were begun in Los Angeles to determine the population of 12 Los Angeles County townships; to decide whether they included 30,000 residents; to determine whether justices of the peace in these respective communities were to be authorized to try cases involving sums up to \$1000.

Appointed by the State Supreme Court to act as referee was Los Angeles Attorney L. Leonard Thomas. As evidence to prove the respective populations, the following statistics will be used: tax rolls, school enrollment, water, gas, electric meters, lists of registered voters, telephone subscribers, city directories.

Until the population problem has been settled, the County Board of Supervisors last week authorized County Counsel Mattoon to ask the State Supreme Court to issue writs of mandamus compelling justices of the peace to try suits of more than \$300.

State Park

State Parks are usually large wooded land-stretches of much beauty. Orange County has within its borders many a lovely glen, wild acreage. Orange County officials long have been of the opinion that lands there are suitable for the location of a State Park.

Upon inquiry, Orange officials recently found that the State Park Commission would probably be willing to set aside \$300,000 for a park in Orange County, if requested. In consideration of this offer, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Orange County met last week at Yorba Linda.

Important among the statements made at the meeting was that of Tom Talbert of Huntington Beach. He thought that since the State had made such a generous offer, bonds should be voted in the County to raise a sum matching that to be given by the State. He urged quick action so that private interests would not "gobble up" the land desired for the park. Others were of Talbert's opinion also. Jesse Armitage of Sunset Beach recommended the purchase of a site between Huntington Beach and Newport Beach.

Floating Menace

A fortnight ago Coast Guard Cutter Tamaron wrecked the fishing barge Jane L. Stanford, rammed last month by the Steamer Humboldt. (See News Review, Sept. 23-29). Twelve 94-pound TNT high-explosive mines were used in the barge's destruction;

for miles around the debris was hurled.

The Coast Guard Cutter Tamaron steamed away; left the wrecked barge to sink to the ocean bottom, no longer to be a menace to navigation.

Last week the ill-fated barge was reported to be only partly submerged; forty feet of it still project three feet above water. Again the Jane L. Stanford is a floating navigation menace.

Water Schemes

Southern California's water supply, ever a potent subject, last week occupied the minds of various towns, cities. The following places encountered the following water problems, met them in the following ways:

El Centro. Water users received word that the tax rate for water deliveries for the year would be \$5.00 per \$100 valuation, the same as during the past three years.

Recently extensive plans were formulated to pipe mountain water from a point near Jacumba into Imperial Valley for domestic use in the valley towns. The idea was investigated for some time, finally abandoned as impracticable. Bert L. Vaughan, owner of Jacumba Springs and main sponsor of the piping proposal, thought the cost of it would be prohibitive, thought it would take \$3,000,000 to finance the scheme. In the face of his doubts came also the doubts of Valley town officials as to whether property owners would be willing to assume such a responsibility in addition to the \$2,000,000 already invested in plants for purification of Colorado River water.

Torrance. City councilmen were occupied with the problem of a city-owned water distributing system, also were to find the potential water sources of the district. Torrance's Mayor John Dennis and two city engineers make up a special committee charged with investigating the plan. This official action follows a request of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. Townsfolk think the present supply, furnished by the Torrance Light and Power System, unfit for use. Also do the townsfolk think the present rate of .334 per 1000 gallons, almost four times the rate of Los Angeles, too exorbitant.

Redlands. Citizens of Redlands last week were discussing a proposal to contribute toward the cost of a weir in the upper stream of the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino County. Also interested in this scheme are Orange and Riverside Counties. The project would cost almost \$90,000, it is thought, and would be placed in the Santa Ana Canyon east of Highlands. Because they would be mutually benefited, both Orange and Riverside counties are said to be willing to contribute toward the cost of the weir. It would provide conservation of the Santa Ana River floods, thus aiding tri-county efforts toward preserving the transient water.

Santa Monica. Harold T. Corey of Santa Monica, consultant in an investigation into a water-softening plant for the city, reported last week that Santa Monica is wasting \$120 per day on extra soap, and that the use of water softening devices plumbing, heaters. After such a doubtful outlook, the City Council is expected to be favorable toward the establishment of a water-softening plant. Councilmen last week were thinking of the cost—approximately \$171,765. Many a citizen found it hard to reconcile the plans which would spend so much money on water when Santa Monica has apparently inexhaustible supplies of remarkably pure water. But the present pure supply is hard and those who understand water best think it should be soft. Therefore, knowing citizens expect the City Council to react favorably to Corey's report.

Ventura. A water district to include the entire Ventura River Valley was the objective of petitions put into the hands of the public there last week. Fifteen hundred signatures were secured to help place the petitions before the Board of Supervisors, with the suggestion that they create the proposed water district. Object of the district: To secure for the whole territory an adequate water supply to bring it to the lands by gravity, if possible. In all, the committee in charge seeks to secure more water for the communities of Ventura and Ojai without interfering with the water rights of other places in the district.

Yorba Linda. The Orange County Associated Chambers of Commerce